

perfunctory manner, but the work¹ in due course appeared with a preface² from his pen, which is remarkable only for its flatness and banality. Meanwhile, Murray had formed the habit of consulting the precocious youth in the perplexities of his business, had learnt to place a high value on his judgment,³ and had taken him into his confidence with ever-diminishing reserve. Encouraged by the success of the *Quarterly Review*, Murray had for some time cherished the ambition of establishing a periodical which should appear at more frequent intervals; and in a fateful moment he confided this ambition to his young adviser.⁴ Disraeli's eager imagination at once went to work and discovered possibilities latent in the project that Murray had never dreamt of. *The Times* had already taken a commanding position in daily journalism, but it was too independent of party affiliations to suit an ardent Camiingite such as Disraeli, with his new world interests, had now become. Why, asked the audacious youth, should it not be possible to establish a daily paper in the Conservative interest which should equal or even surpass *The Times* in influence ? And who more fitted than Benjamin Disraeli, with Murray's resources behind him and assistance from his new friends

¹ The Life of Paul Jones, from original documents in the possession of John Henry Sherburne, Esq., Eegister of the Navy of the United States. London, John Murray, 1825.' The exact relationship of the English book to the American is not clear ; but the former seems also to have been written by an American, and the original manuscript, which has been preserved, shows that Disraeli's share in it was limited to the introduction here and there of a word or phrase where the excision of a passage rendered such amendment necessary.

² Dr. Smiles treats this preface as Disraeli's earliest appearance as an author; but the first of the Mining Pamphlets was published in March, and the *Life of Paul Jones* not till September.

³ It was to Disraeli's advice, for instance, that the publication of Crofton Croker's *Fairy Legends of Ireland*, one of the successful books of the time, appears to have been due.

⁴ For the story of *The Representative* see Smiles' *Life of Murray*, II. ch. 26; Lang's *Life of Lockhart*, I, ch. 12 ; and Scott's *familiar Letters*, II., Appendix.